



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

COLUMBIA, MO., MAN INDICTED FOR RETURNING TO THE UNITED STATES AFTER BEING DEPORTED

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Columbia, Mo., man was indicted by a federal grand jury today for returning to the United States after being deported in 1996 following a felony conviction.

Ignacio Vasquez-Lopez, 35, of Columbia, Mo., a citizen of Mexico, was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury meeting in Jefferson City today.

The federal indictment alleges that **Vasquez-Lopez** was found in Boone County on July 26, 2002, having not obtained the express consent of the Attorney General of the United States for re-application for admission into the United States.

According to Graves, **Vasquez-Lopez** was deported on June 28, 1996, having been convicted of the felony of first degree burglary in Los Angeles County, California, in 1986.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and are not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jim Lynn. It was investigated by the Columbia, Mo., Police Department and the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.
